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INFORMATION SESSION

Launch of the Call for Proposals **NDICI Asia and the Pacific 179588**

Deadline: 12 December 2023 at noon (Brussels time)

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European Commission

08 November 2023 – Virtual Meeting (WebEx)

- 9am Brussels time for Asian countries AND
- 10pm Brussels time for Pacific countries

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- 1** Policy context, priorities, sectors and target groups
- 2** Finance and contracts rules
- 3** How to apply and procedures to follow
- 4** Questions (only through the *raise-your-hand* function)



SWITCH-Asia Programme: Policy context, priorities, sectors and target groups

Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Launched in **2007**
- **Since January 2023: 3rd phase of SWITCH Asia**
- Supports the **transition** of the region to a **low-carbon, resource efficient and circular economy** whilst promoting more **sustainable supply chains and products** between Asia and Europe.
- Today it reflects most of the **priorities of the European Green Deal and the Global Gateway**
- A major EU response to **SDG12** in its **international cooperation**

OUR PROGRAMME IS ALIGNED TO MAIN EU STRATEGIES
CREATED TO RESPOND TO THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES OUR
ENVIRONMENT IS FACING TODAY



The concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

UNEP defines SCP as “A holistic approach to minimizing the negative environmental impacts from consumption and production systems while promoting quality of life for all”.

In particular:

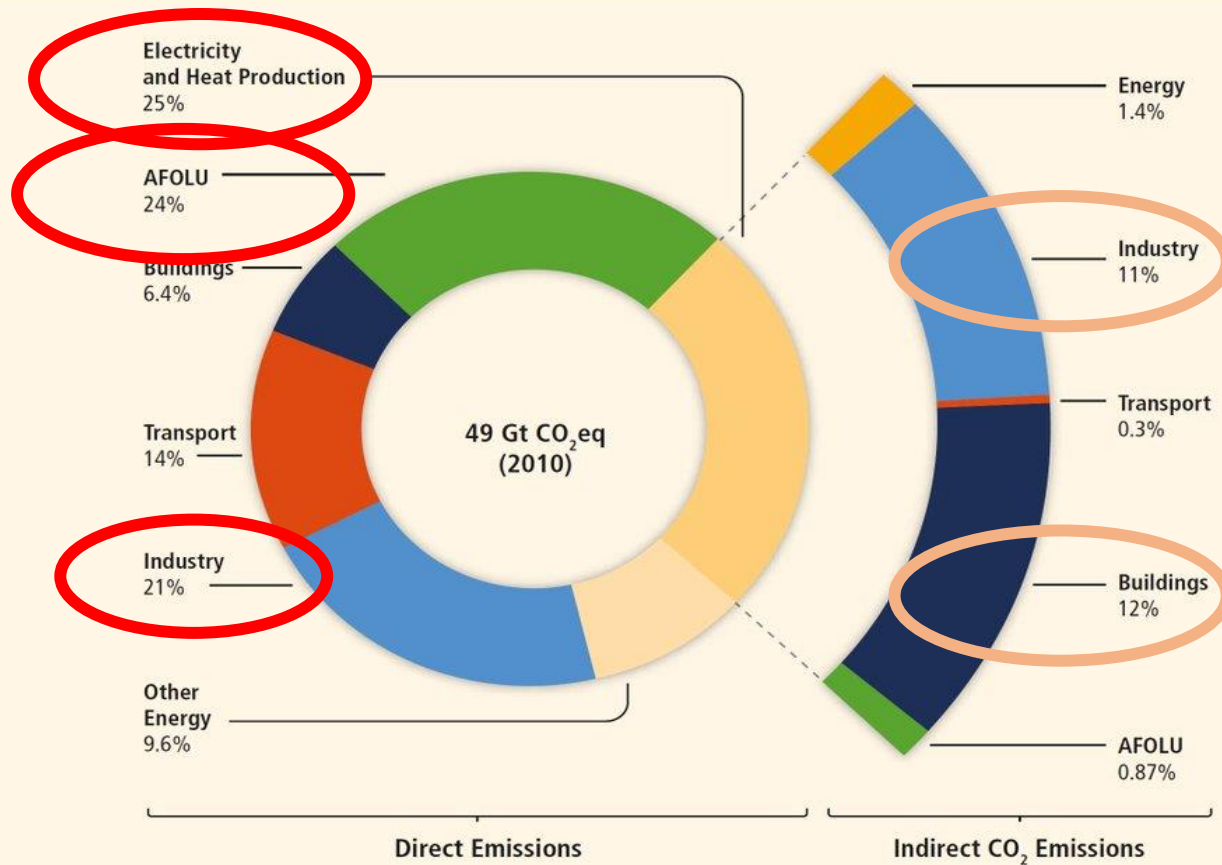
- Sustainable **management** and **efficient use of natural resources**
- Encouraging **companies to adopt sustainable practices**
- Reducing **food losses** along production and supply chains
- Managing **chemical waste**
- Reducing **waste** generation
- Promoting **public procurement** practice
- Strengthening **scientific and technological capacities** to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production



Policy Context

GHG occurs mainly due to human activities... and industries are highly responsible!

Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sectors



Policy Context

We are at a turning point!

- Moving from linear to **greener and more circular economies** is not an option for our societies but **it is essential!**
- This is a new opportunity to rethink about the way we **produce and consume** and change the way our societies function



Policy Context



The European model of trusted connectivity in partner countries is long-term and in line with EU's interests and values: rule of law, human rights and international norms and standards. It is about

- smart, clean and secure investments in quality infrastructure
- connecting goods, people and services around the world in a sustainable way

Policy Context

EU's Green Deal



#EUGreenDeal ACTIONS:

- **Reducing the impact(s) of energy-intensive sectors** (such as textiles, construction, plastics and electronics)
 - Promoting **circularity** of goods and services
 - Promoting more **sustainable food processing**
 - **Forest-friendly** products
 - Setting ambitious global **standards** for products
 - Reducing **food loss** and **waste**
 - Supporting the uptake of **alternative packaging**
 - **Empowering consumers** in their daily choices
 - **Promoting 'green finance'** by adopting a **taxonomy**
- Circular Economy Action Plan (March 2020)
 - From Farm to Fork Strategy (May 2020)
 - EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (May 2020)
 - EU Taxonomy for Sustainable Activities (June 2020)
 - EU Renovation Wave (October 2020)
 - EU Chemical Strategy (October 2020)
 - EU Textiles Strategy
 - Global Alliance on Circular Economy
 - Global Agreement on Plastics

Growth strategy:

- **no net emissions** of greenhouse gases by **2050**
- economic growth is **decoupled** from resource use
- no person and no place is **left behind**

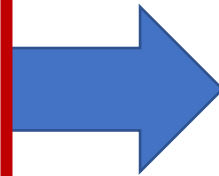


SWITCH-Asia Programme

From projects ... to policy dialogue!

SUPPORTING GAME CHANGERS / STAKEHOLDERS through projects

Testing and adopting greener and more sustainable industrial processing in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**), promoting greener **products** and more sustainable **consumption** patterns and behaviours in Asia and the Pacific



POLICY DIALOGUE

The **results of projects will feed into policy dialogue** with Asian and Pacific governments for the elaboration and implementation of national policies, regulatory frameworks and policy instruments related to SCP.

In collaboration with the EU Delegations and Focal Points of Ministries in partner countries

Call for Proposals

Guidelines section 1.2

- **Priority 1 on SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION**

“Support Micro-Small-and-Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental impact of their industrial production, improving resource mobilisation and efficiency and adopting circular economy practices”

- **Priority 2 on SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION**

“Engaging with consumers on low-carbon practices and sustainable consumption and production practices”

- Project proposals should address **only one** of the mentioned priorities.
- SWITCH-Asia has already funded around **160 projects since 2007!**
- To **avoid duplication** with ongoing and past projects, applicants are invited to check the activities already funded under the SWITCH-Asia programme → www.switch-asia.eu





EU's SWITCH-Asia Programme Renews its Commitment to Catalyze Green and Circular Economies in Asia-Pacific

5th Annual Meeting

[READ MORE](#)





< BACK

Some examples of grants on our website

Q ADVANCED SEARCH

Found: 143 projects

Showing: 20 projects • from 1 to 20



Mindoro Strait Sustainable and Equitable Tuna for Bankability (MS-SETB)

Theme: Agri-food

Philippines

2,496 Views

VIEW



Switching to Green & Fair Fashion

Theme: Textiles and Leather

India

2,568 Views

VIEW



Transitions to circular economy practices in textile and apparel MSMEs along the lifecycle in Huzhou and Shaoxing

Theme: Textiles and Leather

China

3,115 Views

VIEW



eECHO: Towards Energy Efficiency in AgriFood Cold Chain Logistic in China

Theme: Agri-food, Transport and Logistics

China

2,226 Views

VIEW



Size of grants, Duration and EU Co-finance

- Total budget of the call: EUR 24.000.000

Lot 1: Asia € 20 million

Lot 2: Pacific € 4 million

- Proposals **between EUR 500.000 and EUR 1.500.000**
- Duration: **36 - 48 months**
- **EU Co-finance:**
 - **Minimum** percentage: **50%** of the total eligible costs of the action
 - **Maximum** percentage: **80%** of the total eligible costs of the action
90% only if the action takes place in Least Developed Countries (LDC)
 - **Balance** should be financed from sources other than the EU budget.

Call for Proposals: Target groups (see 2.1.1) **switchasia** Funded by the European Union

- MSMEs,
- retailers,
- chambers of commerce,
- Industrial clusters or associations,
- national and regional clean production centres,
- farmers associations,
- Universities & research centres,
- centres for technology transfer,
- I/NGOs,
- consumer organisations,
- development organisations,
- trade federations & labour organisations,
- public sector operator.



Eligible Countries



Eligible Countries (in 2 lots)

Asia:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Indonesia, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

Pacific:

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

In addition...

- **Multi-country proposals:** allowed but in the same Lot (Asia or Pacific)
- should show the **clear added-value** of tackling a topic regionally and/or jointly across-borders
 - They should **not** result only in a list of activities carried out nationally
 - Suggestion: include at least one country **with a more advanced SCP policy framework!**
- **Actions should take place in the Eligible Countries. However, ONLY A FEW individual activities** (e.g. conferences and seminars) can take place **in other locations** mentioned in section 2.1.1 (if duly justified) and lasting **max. 21 non-consecutive days**
 - They should be clearly indicated in the timeline of the action
- **The implementers (and sub-contractors) of contract PC-15460 “SWITCH-Asia - Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (Policy Support Component)” are not eligible under this call for proposals.**

Sectors

In line with the priorities areas set within the European Green Deal, **this call for proposals will target** primarily (but not exclusively) the following sectors:

- **Textiles and leather**
- **Food sector (incl. agri-food and fishing)**
- **Building and construction**
- **Plastics with particular focus on plastic packaging (and its waste)**
- **Electronics**

Type of actions

- **Check examples of both priorities on** page 14 of the Guidelines (section 2.1.4). *Be innovative but do not reinvent the wheel!*
- Proposals may tackle **one or more of these actions** within either Priority 1 or Priority 2. Please read the Guidelines in PROSPECT carefully and do not mix up the rules for the different priorities
- Actions may take place **at any of the phases of the product lifecycle** (designing, manufacturing, logistics and distribution, consumption and end-of-life management). *You don't need to cover everything: concentrate on where you can make the difference!*
- **Inception activities:** max. 4 months within the whole duration of the project and clearly indicated in the timeline of the action.



Ineligible actions

- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Inception and preparatory activities exceeding 4 months;
- Proposals focusing exclusively on farming, harvesting, primary production or raw materials;
- Proposals whose main objective (or where the majority of the activities) is to provide trainings. Trainings should not represent more than 20% of the budget proposed.
- Financial support to third parties

Indicators are the key to your success!

Key to **measure the impact** of projects!

- Obligation: specify your contribution to **at least one of the SDGs targets** listed at page 15-16 of the Guidelines.
- Option: you are **encouraged** to :
 - be aligned with DG INTPA's "*Green Economy Results Chain and Sector Indicator Guidance*" (www.switchtogreen.eu/?p=1586)
 - include in your logframe complementary indicators (as relevant)

Indicators: some examples!



Uptake of SCP practices by (M)SME supported

- Number of (M)SME reporting the adoption of SCP practices
- Number of (M)SME that obtain firm-specific sustainability standards certification

Enhanced consumption and awareness of SCP products and services

- **Business-to-Consumer (B2C):** Increase in sales of SCP products and services by MSME compared to baseline (percentage)
- **Business-to-Business (B2B):** Number of business contracts with retailers, wholesalers or similar on SCP products or services

Improved business performance and access to finance for (M)SME supported

- Number of full-time (equivalent) green jobs sustained/created
- Number of (M)SME reporting monetary savings as a result of SCP implementation
- Number of (M)SME that obtain financial services

Environmental benefits and contribution to climate change mitigation

- CO2 avoided or reduced upon project completion (t CO2/EUR)
- Waste treated upon project completion (t)
- Water saved upon project completion (t)

Social benefits created

- Improved working conditions (list of measures adopted by (M)SME incl. quantitative data, where applicable)
- Improved community livelihood (description of impact incl. quantitative data, where applicable), e.g. money saved per household through lower electricity bills (EUR), number of 'informal' workers formalised, CSR measures implemented, higher quality of life due to reduced pollution



Our grant component provides the opportunity to **test (innovative) SCP practices** (ref. “Type of actions”) ... but we aim at **replicating** them.

Expectation:

- Projects are expected to **prepare one or more business case(s)** to be proposed to private and public investors to increase the availability of SCP practices on the market (either nationally or regionally)
- Projects are expected to improve the **investment climate for “Green Solutions” in Asia and Pacific** providing evidence to investors that investing in SCP brings short-term (and long-term) economic benefits

Access to finance should not be limited to one specific work package or activity but it should **form an integral part of the overall project design!**

Projects should address both:

- **demand-sided activities targeting beneficiary businesses** (e.g. business plan development)
- **complementary supply-sided activities with financial institutions** (e.g. train banks to expand their portfolio by green financing instruments)

Ideal Consortium / Project – Suggestions!

- Start preparing your proposals based on a clear analysis: **“what is needed in the country?”**, **“which SCP practices could be improved/ better integrated?”**, **“what does the selected sector need to go greener?”** (etc.).
- *Your consortium composition comes at a second stage, based on the expertise required to achieve your objective(s)*
- Make sure that you are fully aware of the **national/ regional policies/ legislations you wish to address in your project.**
- *Your project is the starting point to make a positive change in your country!*
- Including **MSMEs / consumers** (or their representatives) to be sure you will reach your final beneficiaries.
- Include (a) partner(s) with a **strong knowledge on the sector/ area** you wish to cover within your project (ref. “Type of action” chosen).



Ideal Consortium / Project – Suggestions!

- Think about “**Associating**” **local/ national authorities, regional organisations, auditing companies/ entities, standardisation bodies, (etc.)** ... any organisation relevant for your policy activities.
- *Regional organisations can have an accelerating effect in this regard!*
- To reinforce your activities related to the “access to finance” and the “scale-up/ reproduction” of the SCP practices you will test, think about “**Associating**” **local/ national banks, financial institutions, development banks, (etc.)** with whom you may start discussions on possible business cases.

NB: there is no formal obligation for your proposal/ partnership to be endorsed by any ministry/ government and no additional points will be allocated to proposals submitting such an endorsing document.

2 Finance and contracts rules

Partnership = lead applicant + co-applicant(s):

Each proposal should be submitted by a partnership composed of **at least one lead applicant and one co-applicant**.

The partnership has to include:

- at least one organisation from a Member State of the European Union, the European Economic Area, member countries of the OECD or Pre-accession Assistance countries.

AND

- at least one organisation from an eligible Asian-Pacific country originating from the country where the action will be implemented ('action location' as per guidelines 2.1.4)

**International organisations (as defined by Art. 156 of FR)
are not eligible under this call for proposals**

Partnership Composition

In the **Full Application stage**, the lead applicant may replace a co-applicant or an affiliated entity but only in duly justified cases (e.g. bankruptcy of initial co-applicant or affiliated entity).

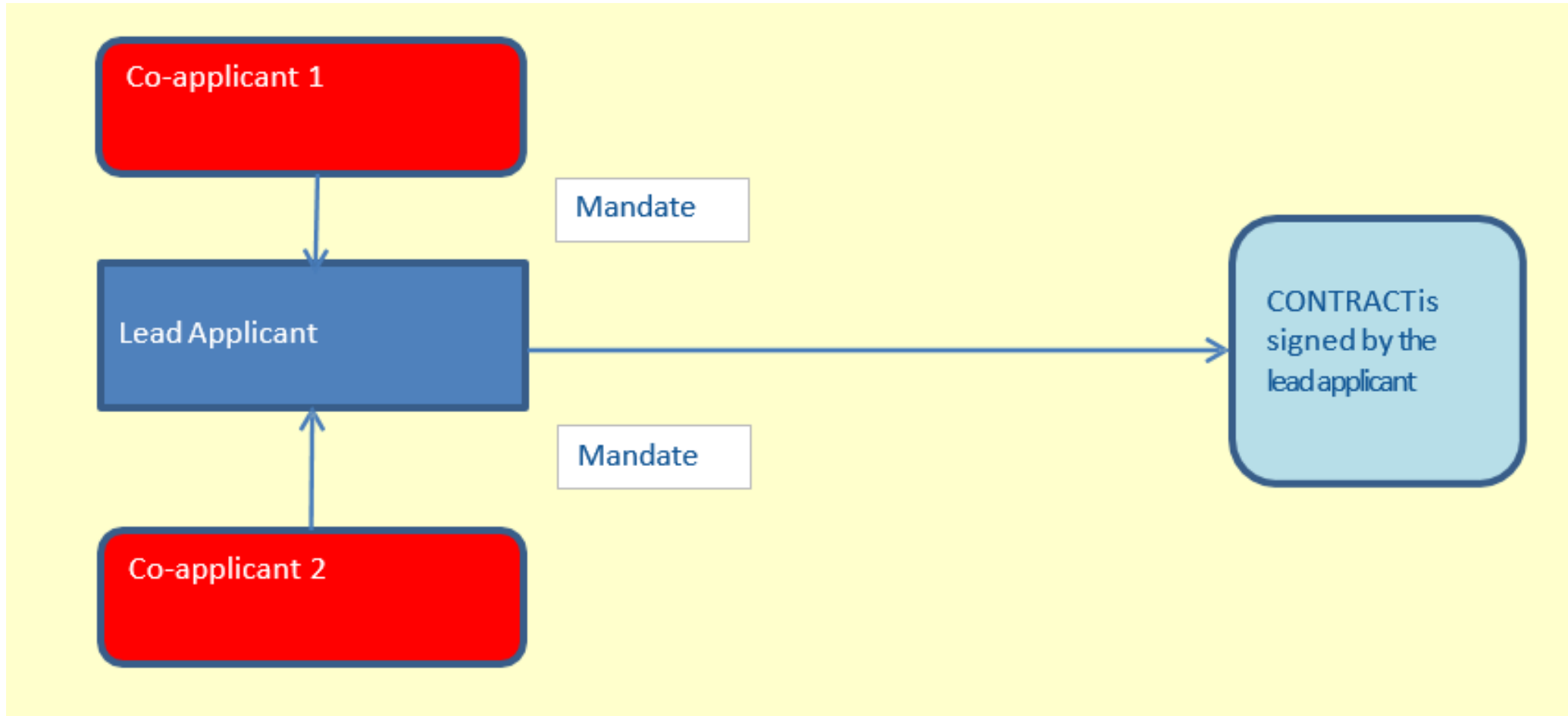
In this case the new co-applicant or affiliated entity must be of a similar nature as the initial one.

An explanation/justification shall be included in section 2.1.1. of the full application form.

Should the explanation/justification not be accepted **the proposal may be rejected on that sole basis.**

(more information on page 22 of Guidelines)

Multi-beneficiary Grant Contract

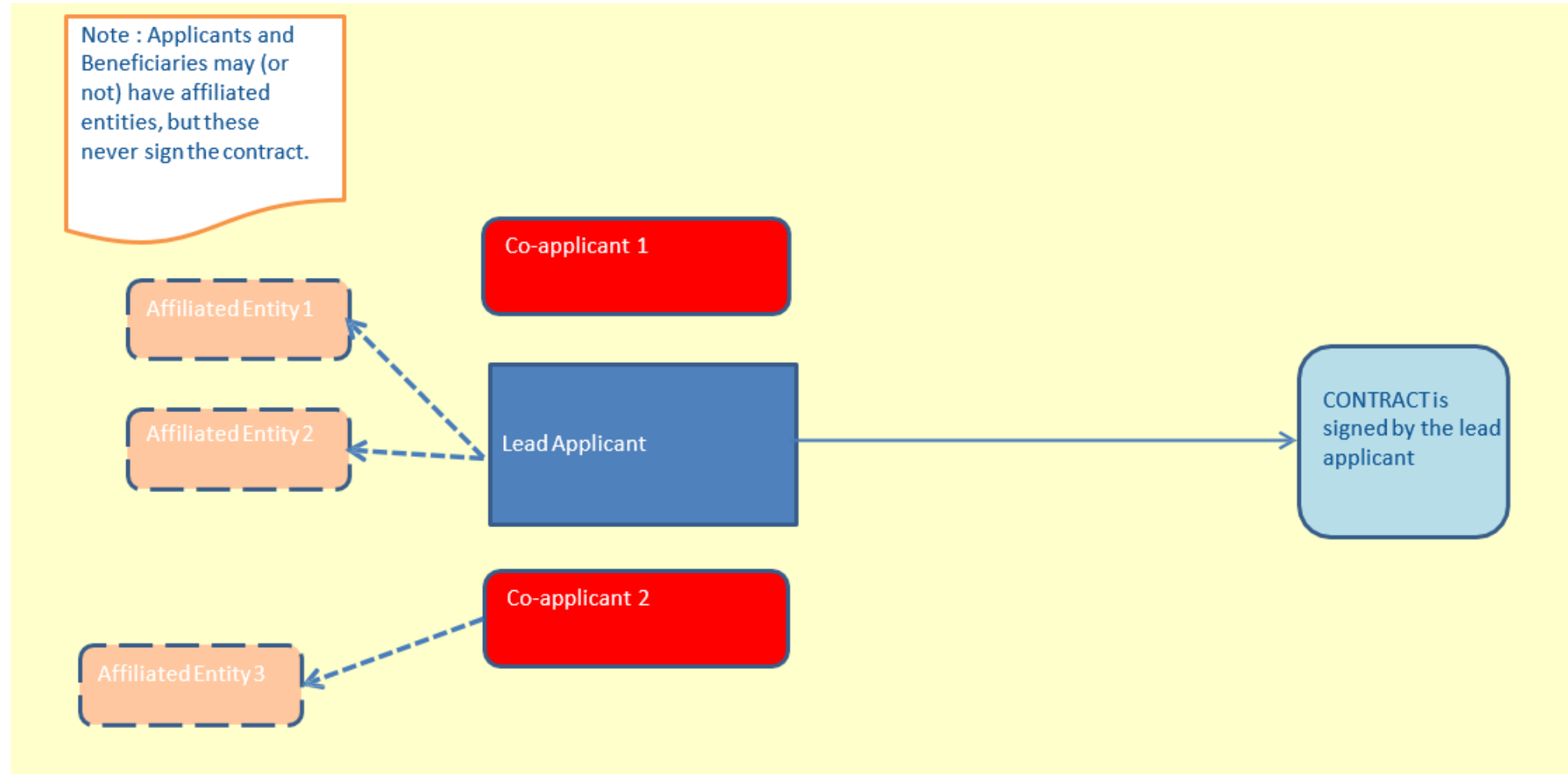


Multi-beneficiary Grant Contract

Lead Applicant / Coordinator:

- Plays the role of "lead applicant" / "main beneficiary"
- Assumes the financial responsibility of the contract
- Gets a mandate signed from the rest of co-applicant(s):
 - To submit the proposal
 - To sign the contract
 - To represent the rest during implementation of the contract

Multi-beneficiary Grant Contract with Affiliated Entities



- **Co-applicants** must satisfy the same eligibility criteria as the lead applicant. Co-applicants must sign the mandate in Annex A.2 Section 5 of the grant application form. They actively participate in the project implementation; incurred costs are eligible.
 - **Affiliated entities** must satisfy the same eligibility criteria as the lead applicant and the co-applicant. They will participate in the design and in the implementation of the action and the costs they incur are eligible.
 - Only entities having a **structural link** (e.g. legal or capital link) with the lead applicant and/or to co-applicants may be **considered as affiliated entities**.
- However, this link should not be established for the sole purpose of its implementation!

Additional information can be found at pages 10-11 of the Guidelines.

- **Associates**

Other organisations or individuals may be involved in the action. Such associates play a real role in the action **but may not receive funding from the grant**, with the exception of per diem or travel costs.

- **Contractors**

The beneficiaries and their affiliated entities are permitted to award contracts. Associates or affiliated entities cannot be also contractors in the project. Contractors are subject to the specific procurement rules (Annex IV Standard Grant contract).

Eligibility of Costs

- As general rule provide realistic and a cost-effective budget.
- Eligible direct costs (Art 14 of GC): actual costs incurred by the beneficiaries and affiliated entities, costs can take the form of: Unit Costs, Lump sums and Flat- rate financing.
- **Contributions in kind** are not eligible and are not treated as co-financing (except in the form of volunteers 'work)
- Applicants may not propose **financial support to third parties** (sub-granting)
- Indirect costs (Max 7% of the estimated total eligible direct costs)
- a contingency reserve not exceeding 5% of the estimated direct eligible costs. It can only be used with the prior written authorization.

- Difference between the total cost of the action and the amount requested from the contracting authority, i.e., if the applicant requested the maximum percentage allowed (80%) then the co-financing by the beneficiary should correspond to the remaining 20%
- Must be financed from sources other than the general budget of the Union or the European Development Fund (EDF). (own funding resources or third parties' contributions)

3 How to apply and procedures to follow

- Each applicant's organisation has to be registered into **PADOR**
 - For lead-applicants: already at the Concept Note step
 - For co-applicants and affiliated entities: at the latest at the Full-Application stage
- Don't forget also to upload/ update the legal documents of the entities (e.g: status of organisation, LEF, etc.) in PADOR



The submission of the proposals is done electronically via the IT tool **PROSPECT**:

- don't forget to submit the grant application forms and mandatory declarations/annexes
- do not wait until the last minute to apply (deadline to respect): **12 December at noon (Brussels time)**

The administrative check will be performed taking into consideration only the information available in PROSPECT.

Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the declarations and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the proposal on that sole basis.

Number of applications and grants *per applicant*

- **The lead applicant** may submit more than 1 application per lot but may not be awarded more than 1 grant
- **The lead applicant** may not be a co-applicant or an affiliated entity in another application
- **A co-applicant/ affiliated entity** may be the co-applicant or affiliated entity in more than 1 application but may not be awarded more than 1 grant per lot.

3 Main steps of evaluation

STEP 1: Evaluation of the Concept Note



STEP 2: Evaluation of the Full Application

STEP 3: Verification of eligibility of the applicants and affiliated entities



Concept Note – evaluation stage

Balanced coverage

In order to ensure actions take place in as many target countries as possible, proposal selection at the **Concept Note stage** will be done as follows:

- All proposals will be evaluated according to the criteria of section 2.3 (step 1) and then only those who pass the threshold of 30 points will be ranked
- Selection from the ranked proposals will be done according to target countries (**this means that the highest-ranking application per target country will be invited to submit a Full Application**)
- **Full Applications** to the tune of 200% of the total available budget will be invited. If, following the country-based selection referred to in point (2), there is a need to select further proposals in order to reach this 200% mark, then selection of these will be conducted on the basis of ranking (and irrespective of where the action will be carried out)



Concept Note – evaluation stage

Balanced coverage

In case of **multi-countries projects**, the candidates must clearly specify, in the concept note (PROSPECT), which is the principal country where the project will be implemented.



CALL FOR PROPOSAL PUBLICATION

Indicative timetable

DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS 21/11/2023 (Concept Note)

21 days before the deadline for submission of CN

FAQ PUBLICATION AT THE LATEST 01/12/2023

11 days before the deadline for submission of CN

Questions related to this call for proposals should be sent
ONLY to the following mail address:

INTPA-SWITCH-ASIA@ec.europa.eu



DEADLINE FOR SENDING CONCEPT NOTES

12 December 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE CHECK & TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF THE CONCEPT NOTES

December & January 2024

COMMUNICATION OF THE RESULTS TO ALL APPLICANTS/ invitation to submit Full-Application

February 2024

DEADLINE FOR SENDING FULL APPLICATIONS

May 2024

DEADLINE FOR QUESTIONS (Full Application)

Until 21 days before the deadline for submission of FA

FAQ PUBLICATION AT THE LATEST

Until 11 days before the deadline for submission of FA

EVALUATION OF FULL APPLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION TO ALL THE APPLICANTS

June/July 2024

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY (applicant and partners) **& NOTIFICATION TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS** –July 2024

NOTIFICATION OF THE AWARD (after eligibility check) – August 2024

CONTRACT SIGNATURE - September 2024 onwards

4 Questions

Basic rules for Webex:

- Use the “*Raise your hand*” function
- Your question(s) should request for a clarification on the text of the Guidelines
- Please be clear and short once addressing your question(s) - so that we can accommodate as many participants as possible
- This is not the only possibility for you to ask question(s) - we will regularly reply to questions sent to our mailbox INTPA-SWITCH-ASIA@ec.europa.eu and publish FAQ on the PROSPECT website

Thank you

**All questions related to this call for proposals
must be sent to:**

INTPA-SWITCH-ASIA@ec.europa.eu

A copy of the FAQ will be published regularly on the
webpage of the Call for Proposals